

REMARKS

Claims 1, 10, and 12 are pending. Claims 2-9 and 11 have been canceled. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1, 3 and 10-12 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP-A 02-107682 to Inako *et al.* (hereafter, Inako), US 6627844 to Liu *et al.* (hereafter, Liu) and JP 01125345U to Aoyama. Claims 3 and 11 have been canceled. As for claims 1, 10, and 12, the applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn for the following reasons.

Claim 1 now recites that the through holes are formed by a laser beam machining, which was recited in canceled claim 3. Further, claim 1 now recites that the base material comprises a resin film made of polyolefin, polyester, polyvinyl chloride or polyurethane. These features are not disclosed or suggested by Inako, Liu or Aoyama.

Claim 1 requires that the hole diameter of the through holes at a front surface of the pressure sensitive adhesive sheet is 40 μm or less. Thus, the upper limit of the hole diameter of the through hole at the surface of the pressure sensitive adhesive sheet is 40 μm . Through holes of such a size are invisible to the naked eye. See page 14, lines 13-22, of the specification. Neither Inako, Liu or Aoyama discloses or suggests that the hole diameter of the through hole at the surface of the pressure sensitive adhesive sheet is 40 μm , nor does any of these references suggest invisible through holes. Therefore the feature of the hole diameter would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Claim 1 further requires that the through holes are formed by a laser beam machining. Neither Inako, Liu or Aoyama discloses or suggests a pressure sensitive adhesive sheet in which

through holes are formed by laser beam machining. The through holes in Inako are formed by a cutting process. The through holes in Aoyama are formed by a needle roll. A burr is generally formed around the through hole at the side that cutting blade or needle comes out, and a dent is formed around the through hole at the side where the cutting blade or needle is inserted. Therefore, the through holes are highly visible at the surface of the pressure sensitive adhesive sheet. On the other hand, there is no deformation or burr on the laminate around the through holes formed by laser beam machining, because the part of the material to which laser beam is radiated evaporates and disappears. The figure of the through holes is regular and cleaner than that in Inako and Aoyama. Therefore, good air deflation properties are obtained, as described in the specification, and the through holes are invisible at the surface of the pressure sensitive adhesive sheet.

Liu discloses through holes that are formed on a work piece by laser beam machining. However, Liu discloses a nozzle plate of an ink-jet head as a work piece. The nozzle plate is made of hard material. The work piece in Inako is a marking sheet that is made of soft material. There is no reason for one of ordinary skill in the art to apply the laser beam machining of Liu to the marking sheet of Inako or Aoyama, because the material of the work pieces are very different.

Claim 1 further requires that the resin film is made of polyolefin, polyester, polyvinyl chloride or polyurethane. Liu discloses metal and fluororesin and silicone resin as the object material of the laser beam machining. See column7, lines 40-47 of Liu. Generally, it is known that a resin film made of polyolefin, polyester, polyvinyl chloride or polyurethane is not suitable for laser beam machining. Liu fails to disclose laser machining of a resin film made of polyolefin, polyester, polyvinyl chloride or polyurethane.

For the reasons given above, claim 1 and its dependents cannot be rendered obvious by the combination of Inako, Liu and Aoyama, and this rejection should be withdrawn.

Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested because the amendment is considered to place the application in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, the applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions arise, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

If there are any problems with the payment of fees, please charge any underpayments and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,

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